

10/089044

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 26 MAR 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Akihiro Niki et al.

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. New

Docket No. 2002\_0329A

Filed March 26, 2002

THE USE OF THERMOPLASTIC ELASTOMER,  
AND THE PRODUCTION METHOD THEREOF  
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/06812

Filed September 29, 2000]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449. It is believed that the PTO has a copy of all references cited herein since these references were cited in the attached International Search Report.

1a.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1)  the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
- (2)  the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**  
**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

- a.  that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b.  that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3.  Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

- a.  a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

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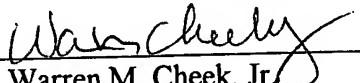
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- b. [] a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
  - c. [] the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
  - d. [] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
  - e. [] the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5.  A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Akihiro Niki et al.

By

  
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March 26, 2002

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Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: March 26, 2002

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
2002\_0329A

JC1D

SERIAL NO.  
New

REC'D PCT/PTO 26 MAR 2002

APPLICANT  
Akihiro Niki et al.FILING DATE  
March 26, 2002

GROUP

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ	2-215821	08/1990	JP			
	AK	6-49169	02/1994	JP			
	AL	10-17764	01/1998	JP			
	AM	11-124774	05/1999	JP			
	AN	102115	03/1984	EP			
	AO	2000-212406	08/2000	JP			

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.